

# General Mineral Miner Course Description

The Mineral Mine Safety Act of Virginia (MMSA) (§45.1-161.292:28) requires that miners starting work after January 1, 1997 must be trained and certified by the Board of Mineral Mining Examiners (BMME) as general mineral miner (GMM) prior to starting work. GMM certification is obtained by completing training in first aid and the Mineral Mine Safety Laws of Virginia and Safety and Health Regulations for Mineral Mining.

## Course Objective

The objectives of this course are to:

1. Familiarize new miners with the MMSA.
2. Familiarize new miners with potential safety or health hazards associated with mineral mining, and Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Division of Mineral Mining safety and health regulations that address those hazards.
3. Familiarize new miners with emergency first aid procedures to be used when treating an injured victim.



GMM training and certification is open to any person with an interest in mine safety issues, although it is specifically designed and required for workers at mineral mines in Virginia. Persons excluded from the GMM certification requirement are employees of independent contractors who are involved in delivery, office work, maintenance, service, and construction work, which is not related to the extraction or processing of materials.

GMM training must be conducted by a DMM approved instructor, a BMME certified mine foreman, or a federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) approved instructor. To receive certification, the student must prove that they have adequately learned the course topics by the instructor's choice of either a demonstration of skills or written examination.

Upon completion of training, each participant must complete a GMM training/certification form (BMME-4), which must be signed by both the GMM applicant and instructor. In addition, the instructor must complete a GMM course roster provided by DMM, which specifies the date of training, names of applicants, and GMM certificate identification numbers issued. The course roster, along with a completed application form (BMME-4) and \$10 certification fee for each applicant is then submitted to the DMM office in Charlottesville, Virginia.

## Course Content

This course is intended to be used as a supplement to the "new miner" training element of a mine operator's mine safety training plan required by §45.1-161.292:73 of the MMSA, and where applicable, MSHA Part 46 new miner training. Upon completion of this training new miners must



undergo "task training" for their initial work assignment as well as any additional training specified in the company's mine safety training plan.

This 8-hour course provides basic knowledge of first aid and Virginia's mineral mining laws and regulations. BMME regulation 4VAC25-35-120 specifies that the following topics be covered during this course:

- First aid training covers emergency first aid procedures including identification of trauma symptoms, recognition and treatment of external and internal bleeding, shock, fractures, and exposure to heat or cold.

- Law and regulation training covers the MMSA and the Safety and Health Regulations for Mineral Mining. Specifically, the course reviews information on miner responsibilities and accountability, certification requirements, penalties, appeals and reporting of violations to DMM.



## Course Material

Each applicant will receive copies of the Mineral Mine Safety Laws of Virginia and Safety and Health Regulations for Mineral Mining.

To obtain copies of applications (BMME-4) call DMM (434) 951-6316, or download from DMM's website:  
<http://www.mme.state.va.us/Dmm/>

If you would like to arrange a GMM course at your mine or facility, please contact DMM at (434) 951-6316 or contact the DMM mine inspector for your area.



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## General Mineral Miner Certification Course



Virginia Division of Mineral Mining